

PROJECT

Fusion of Horizons is a photographic essay for three video projection screens on the general theme of art, cities and citizenship. The project includes close to 300 images coupled with texts by the author **Michel Lefebvre** (in English, French and Spanish) and an original soundtrack by **Thierry Gauthier**.

The "fusion of horizons" refers to a concept developed by German philosopher Hans-Georg Gadamer (1900-2002). Gadamer's thesis is that we always understand or interpret from our own horizon, at least in part, when we seek for something else (say "another horizon"), but without being always explicitly conscious of that. The act of understanding implements a "fusion of horizons", those of the interpreter and its object, where we can't clearly distinguish what belongs to one or the other.

This notion greatly inspired me to describe my work, which is generally focused in our constructed perceptions of the other and the elsewhere. With the current project, my intention is more specifically to articulate a certain universal vision from a photographic body developed around the work of artists and citizens who build and inhabit their environment. Inhabiting means being in the world, but it can also signify to "build oneself by building the world" (Olivier Lazzarotti, 2013).

My thematic research covers two axes: how the artist exists and expresses in the public space, and how the city in turn communicates through signs and symbols. If the city language tends to express more and more by the staging of places, the infiltrating artistic interventions add complexity, contributing to the polyphonic voices of the city. I am interested in the artistic creation as a way to interpret the world, and by issues raised by the artist-citizen whose interventions support and shake the public space in which he/she is inserted.

PROCESS

In 2014, with the publication of my photo book "Amazons, Rebels and Mutant", I concluded a cycle of portraits realized over the past decade, exploring the warrior as a figure of cultural resistance. I wished, subsequently, to initiate a new research project that lead me to the documentation of the city as a territory of expression and citizenship. I chose to start by revisiting my photo archives and those of my partner. Editing a new series of images allowed me to bring a more global and personal comment on the world around us. To speak about beauty, for example, as a strike force and salutary jolt to get us back on track.

My hope was to develop a narrative and poetic suite with a documentary value and a biographical and impressionist point of view. Video editing and multiscreen projection emerged as an appropriate form to organize the photographic narrative. My interest was to create back and forth movements between text and images, raising thematic and formal associations referring to the subjective and aesthetic experience of the city: as wanderings, contemplation, leaks...

The project was developed in the summer of 2015 during an artist residency in Bogotá, Colombia (Conseil des arts du Québec / Mincultura).

INSTALLATION

The installation requires three projectors. For the projection, I could use an external multi-display adapter that allows to project onto three surfaces from a single computer. In case the three projectors were not available, the resolution of the images are high enough to be projected as one single image.

ARTISTIC STATEMENT

<http://www.evaquintas.ca/indexphoto.htm>

As a photographer, my practice is characterized by an opening to other disciplines, in particular literature and multimedia, narrative and interactive processes. I have produced photographic exhibitions, net art projects, video installations, as well as a plurimedia photographic and literary fiction with the Montréal-based author Michel Lefebvre (conceived for the web, the radio, the exhibition space and the CD-rom). Through an exploration of different narrative forms, my work, initially rooted in the ritual of portraiture, questions communication processes, intercultural dialogue and the construction of cultural identities and mythologies.

COLLABORATORS

As a writer, **Michel Lefebvre** has always favoured a multidisciplinary approach of his work via lectures, books, radio, exhibitions, and now multimedia. All of his projects, often collaborative in nature, are based on a different creative process or means of dissemination. From his earliest poems, he has taken on a manifest style of writing that stands as an expression of a collective voice, and he collaborates with artists in various disciplines to create poetic stagings of social events or contexts. With Eva Quintas, he is co-founder of the Montreal artist-run centre Agence TOPO, devoted to digital creation and new narrativities. <https://www.linkedin.com/in/souslemanteau>

Multidisciplinary artist, **Thierry Gauthier** composes, produces and diffuses music since the end of the 80's. He received numerous commissions for movies, art-videos, television series, theatre plays, documentaries, multimedia and multidisciplinary performances. Besides his passion for music, he has explored painting and now, he is rediscovering pictorial expression, digital video and photography. He was finalist for the Opus Award - Creation of the year (Canada 2012) and received the Excellence Award in Electroacoustic (Canada 2011). <http://www.thierrygauthier.com>